

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

An image retrieval system performs both keyword-based and content-based image retrieval. A user interface allows a user to specify a query using a combination of keywords and examples images. Depending on the input query, the image retrieval system finds images with keywords that match the keywords in the query and/or images with similar low-level features, such as color, texture, and shape. The system ranks the images and returns them to the user.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The user interface allows the user to identify images that are more relevant to the query, as well as images that are less or not relevant. The image retrieval system monitors the user feedback and uses it to refine any search efforts and to train itself for future search queries.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 6 shows an example of a query screen 600 presented by the user interface 200 for entry of an initial query. The screen display 600 presents a natural language text entry area 602 that allows user to enter keywords or phrases. After entering one or more keywords, the user actuates a button 604 that initiates the search for relevant images. Alternatively, the user can browse a pre-defined concept hierarchy by selecting one of the categories listed in section 606 of the

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1 query screen 600. The user actuates the category link to initiate a search for
2 images within the category.

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4 Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 1, with the
5 following rewritten paragraph:

6 Because the low-level features are not enough to present the images'
7 semantics, some or even all of the automatically labeled keywords will inevitably
8 be inaccurate. However, through user queries and feedbacks, semantically
9 accurate keywords labels will emerge while semantically inaccurate keywords will
10 slowly be eliminated.

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